The CHRONICLE of LIBERTY,

OR THE

REPUBLICAN INTELLIGENCER.

BE it therefore Conſtituted and Enacted: That the LIBERTY OF THE PRESS *be inviolably Preſerved.*
Clauſe XXIII. of the CONSTITUTION of SOUTH-CAROLINA.

(VOL. I.) TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1783. (NUMB. I.)

PROPOSALS.

For Publiſhing and Continuing under the Auſpices of a FREE PEOPLE, a FREE PAPER intitled,

The *CHRONICLE* of *LIBERTY;*

OR THE

REPUBLICAN INTELLIGENCER.

TO Contain the freſheſt and moſt material *Intelligence* both foreign and domeſtic; together with Eſſays on Government, *Liberal* animadverſions on what may be called the *People's Property*, namely, *Public* Men, and *Public* Meaſures; Extracts from the moſt *approved* Authors; Poetical Performances; *Political, Moral, Religious* and *Entertaining.*

CONDITIONS.

I. THE CHRONICLE of LIBERTY, &c. ſhall be Printed with a neat Type, on a full Sheet of Demy Paper, of good Quality.

II. PUBLICATION Days to be the TUESDAY of every Week, when the Town Subſcribers ſhall be Furniſhed with the CHRONICLE, at their reſpective Houſes, and the Country Subſcribers, at the ſeveral Places they ſhall direct in Town.

III. THE Annual Price FIVE DOLLARS, and the Daily Price SIXPENCE STERLING.

IV. EACH Subſcriber to pay Half the Annual Subſcription in Advance, and the Remainder at the expiration of every Year; and in caſe of Removal, his reſpective Right may be transferred to any other Perſon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the CHRONICLE, &c. taken in by Cudworth, Waller, & Co. at their Vendue Store, No. 92 at the Corner of Broad and Church-Streets; by Milligan, & Co. at their Vendue Store, No. 106 Broad-Street; by Meſſrs. Stafford & Porter, No. 19 Church-Street; and by the Publiſhers at No. 59, Fradd-Street, where Advertiſements, Articles of Intelligence, Eſſays, &c. for this Paper, are received:——All Sorts of Printing Work done at this Office, in the neateſt Manner, with Care and Expedition.

*** *Since our late Advertiſement, we have thought it conducive to our Intereſt, and creditable to our Paper, to aſſociate with a Gentleman of the Profeſſion, well verſant in the Buſineſs. In this view, we beg leave to inform the Public, that Mr.* Joſeph Davis *is become our Partner, under the Firm of* MANSFIELD & DAVIS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

ALTHOUGH the law, as well as the conſtitution, have explicitly eſtabliſhed the freedom of the Preſs, equally in this, as in every other ſtate of the confederacy;—it is, yet, a truth but too notorious and lamentable, that few Preſſes, if any, are free in fact, within the union; or in other words, avowedly, really, and practically free; that is, truly open, independent, uninfluenced, and ſecret.*

A Preſs, for inſtance, cannot be open, that rejects the free, but liberal diſcuſſions of what belongs to the public,—namely, public men, and public meaſures. In ſuch animadverſions, however galling to the pride of an individual, a free people are ſeriouſly intereſted, with reſpect to their liberties.—They promote, beſide, the vigilant jealouſy,—they ſecure the political ſafety,—and they eſtabliſh the permanent glory of a democracy.

That Preſs cannot be independent, which is dependent on a party, or ſubject to the controul of ſtate inquiſitors, or in the pay of any chief magiſtrate or legiſlature. §

That Preſs cannot be uninfluenced, over which characters preſide, whoſe politicks are diſſonant to the polity of the ſtate.

Nor can that Preſs be ſecret, (the firſt and moſt eſſential qualification of a free Preſs,) which is leaky of its depoſits, or which, in any wiſe, may be irretentive of what may officially be confided to it.

When under the banners of freedom, a jealous and heroic people have newly poſſeſſed themſelves of imperial ſovereignty, and ſelf-rule; or when the taper of liberty is about to expire, or to dim in its effulgence, among them;—it is, then,--it is principally then, that a free Preſs, a preſs avowedly and profeſſedly free, is moſt uſeful and neceſſary.

Previous to our emancipation, while this country was tributary, and cantoned into provinces, the liberty of the Preſs, ſanctioned, however, and ſecured to us by a Britiſh conſtitution, was ſtill ſhackeled and reſtrained, under the over-awing influence of men, whoſe powers originated, and whoſe ſalaries were derived, from the polluted ſources of a crown prerogative.

In this ſtage of our dependency, ſuch provinces as were emphatically called royal governments, thoſe, in particular, which lay centrically, and ſoutherly, poſſeſſed a motely aggregate of petty deſpots, the little emanations of regal pride, the ſervile minſtrels of miniſterial meaſures.—For theſe appendages of a rotten monarchy, it was extremly natural to be abhorrent of liberties, which were ſubverſive of every power that was not popular,—which, if dominant, would lay their honors in the duſt, and which muſt inevitably extirpate them from the land;—as the thorny thiſtles of the conſtitution;—as the opiate poppies, which ſtun the growth of freedom,—as weeds, which choak the crop, and impoveriſh the harveſt of liberty.—Of theſe, however, (ſince the Æra of the Revolution,) many affect to be regenerated in their principles, and to become the ſincere advocates of republicaniſm.--But others there are, who occaſionally diſcloſe their lordly ſentiments,—and from under the garb of deluſion, often betray themſelves vultures of prey, by an unguarded diſplay of their beakes and their tallons.

To ſuch, we make no doubt, but that the inſtitution of our free Paper, will be highly obnoxious.—Veterans, by ſyſtem, in promoting national wrong; they fear the annearing light, and tremble at the approach of diſcloſure.—To men of this ſtamp, a free paper is a rod.—To men of ſuch principles, a free paper is a ſalutary reſtraint;—and to none, but to real or intentional public criminals, can it prove irkſome or diſagreeable.

That ſuch exiſt in theſe ſtates, is a deplorable truth.—That ſuch exiſt in this, their oppoſition to a free Preſs, will now determine.—We court not oppoſition; though we expect it.---We expect oppoſition; and are prepared for it.—As the repoſitary of a moſt ſacred truſt;—as the trump of the public's voice, and the organ of the people's pleaſure;—as principal minſtrels of the temple, deſtined to officiate at the holy alter of Liberty; in the faithful diſcharge of our weighty duty, we are determined to be reſolute, and inflexible. Though we may fall, in our truſt;—we ſhall not fail in it.—If the victims of a potent reſentment, we ſhall be the martyrs of our country's freedom. From the ruins of this Paper, other free ones ſhall ariſe;—nor can the Liberty of the Preſs ever expire, until that of the People expires alſo.—The one is inſeperable from the other.—Both are eſſentially conjoined, and corelative.—a revolution in either begets a revolution in the other.---As America has undergone her's, ſo has the Preſs.—Both, were for the extention of their reſpective liberties; and their reſpective liberties have been extended.--Since then, it is to favour thoſe liberties,—to extend an equal portion of political, civil, and religious freedom to all claſſes of men, indiſcriminately, that this Paper hath been inſtituted;—we have determined,--reſolutely determined to try,--what ſhare of republican virtue, and what of ſtern freedom, is ſtill to be found in the land;--and to try, if the virtuous and the free will dare to patronize, prop, and ſuſtain what has been thus eſtabliſhed, for their own aggrandiſement, glory and good.

A chaſte, a liberal and a patriotic Paper, is is our fixed purpoſe to preſerve.—Though the DOVE ſhall never be deſignedly cenſured; yet the CROW ſhall not be ſpared.†——The ſelfiſh, the virulent, and, the malacious we ſhall ſedulouſly diſtinguiſh from the diſintereſted, the ingenious, and the noble.—Our Preſs is deſtined for public uſe;---and not for private abuſe or ribbaldry.

In deſpotic governments, where dejection of mind on the one hand, and ignorance on the other, afford neither will nor ability to write, preſſes profeſſedly free, are hardly known.—Auguſtus and Tiberius, thoſe uſurpers and tyrants over the liberties of Rome, for pieces written againſt their courtiers, and for ſtrictures publiſhed againſt themſelves, declared the patriot authors guilty of high treaſon,

* We have learned but of three in the thirteen States, that are profeſſedly free;—two in Penſylvania, and one in Maryland.

§ A Preſs of the latter ſort, would be but the ſervant of the ſervants of the people.

† Dat veniam Corvis,— vexat cenſura Columbas. JUVENAL. Sat. 1.